

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 SCEM-02

INT-08 SCI-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, IV

SUBJECT: ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: STAE 004159

1. POLITICAL OFFICER AND I WERE RECEIVED BY FOREIGN MINISTER
USHER JANUARY 11 AT MY REQUEST TO EXPLAIN PRESIDENT NIXON'S
MESSAGES TO THE PRINCIPAL PETROLEUM IMPORTING COUNTRIES AND TO
THE OPEC COUNTRIES.

2. I STRESSED THE UNITED STATES' AWARENESS OF THE ENERGY PROBLEM
FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TRANSLATED FOR THE MINISTER PARAGRAPH
SIX OF THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO THE PRINCIPAL CONSUMER COUNTRIES.

3. THE MINISTER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE BRIEFING AND THE
U.S. INITIATIVE AND WENT ON TO GIVE US HIS VIEWS ON THE
PETROLEUM PROBLEM AS FOLLOWS: THERE CAN BE NO
INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY SOLUTIONS TO THE PETROLEUM PROBLEM. THE PROBLEM
MUST BE RESOLVED JOINTLY. HE SAID THAT EVEN IF THE ARABS PROMISED
TO SUPPLY THE IVORY COAST ALL OF ITS PETROLEUM NEEDS THAT
WOULD NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM IF THE INDUSTRIAL CONSUMERS WERE
DEPRIVED OF PETROLUUM, BECAUSE IF THE LATTER DID NOT HAVE
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PETROLEUM IT WOULD INEVITABLY RETARD FURTHER THE IVORY COAST'S

DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THAT THE WORLD IS SO INTERRELATED ECONOMICALLY TODAY THAT THE ONLY CONCEIVABLE SOLUTION IS A GLOBAL ONE.

4. THE MINISTER RECOUNTED FOR US HIS CONVERSATION OF 1962 WITH ADLAI STEVENSON AT UN IN WHICH HE HAD URGED AMERICA NOT TO IGNORE AFRICA IN THE ALLOCATION OF ITS RESOURCES. HE SAID HE TRIED TO IMPRESS UPON STEVENSON AT THAT TIME THAT THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES WOULD BE "RELIABLE COUNTRIES." HE SAID THAT HISTORY HAD PROVEN HIM RIGHT. THE WEST HAS INVESTED ENORMOUS RESOURCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NOW FIND THEMSELVES IN DIFFICULT STRAITS AND SO HAVE BEGUN INTENSIVELY TO SEARCH FOR PETROLEUM IN AFRICA. BUT HE FELT THAT IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE.

5. MINISTER USHER WAS VERY RECEPTIVE TO OUR DEMARCHE AND SAID THAT HE WOULD BRIEF THE PRESIDENT DURING THE COURSE OF THE DAY. WE NOTE THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS CALLED A MEETING OF ALL ELEMENTS OF THE PARTY FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 14. WE TEND TO THINK THAT PETROLEUM PRICES WILL BE ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL AGENDA ITEMS AT THE MEETING.

DIAMANTI

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